THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) Government have seen the news-item referred to in the question. According to available information a container/grenade suspected to be a chemical grenade had been recovered by the BSF on 12 January 1997 in village Nuran. On further examination by experts it was found to be a country made grenade and not a chemical grenade. There are no other reports pertaining to recovery/seizure of chemical weapons in J & K. Sustained efforts are being made by the security forces to contain the possibility of smuggling and infiltration of weapons, etc. into the State from across the border.

Withdrawal of claim over Pakistan Occupied Kashmir

3533. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statements of members of the Jammu and Kashmir Government that State Assembly was to debate a resolution on withdrawing claim over Pakistan occupied Kashmir and surrender of Pakistan occupied Kashmir to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof with reaction thereto;

(c) whether such statements tantamount to violation of the Constitution of India and the oath of office taken by members of Government before assuming office;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take action in the matter so as to avoid repetition of same in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUB-RAMONIYAN): (a) to (e) Government are aware of the reports in the media about such statements having been purportedly made by the Members of Jammu & Kashmir Government as also of reports denying/clarifying the same. The position of the Government in this regard is that the whole of the State of J & K, including the area under illegal occupation of Pakistan, and portions of the State illegally ceded by Pakistan, is an integral part of India.

Census report regarding unemployment and Child Labour

3534. SHRI M.D. SALIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of Government on the data published by the Registrar-General of India based on computed, tabulated and processed Census Report;

(b) whether Government are aware that according to the Report, the number of working children is pegged at 11.3 million of which 6.2 million are boys and 5.1 million are girls; and

(c) if so, whether the census report contradicts all Government reports on unemployment are child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million as against an estimated 17.02 million of working children as per the 43rd round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88.

Authentic figures on working children are generated from the census data. The information on working children for the intra census period is estimated on the

basis of information collected in different rounds of National Sample Survey (NSS) Therefore, variation in the estimates of working children based on NSS data and actual number of working children based on census data cannot be ruled out.

Industries Closed due to Labour Problems in Bihar and Orissa

3535. SHRI JANARDHAN YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units closed due to labour problems during the last two years in Bihar and Orissa;

(b) the estimated loss in terms of production and mandays;

(c) the steps being taken to restart those units; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent the disputes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Informatin is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of a Manpower Export Council (MEC)

3536. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up a Manpower Export Council (MEC) to streamline the procedure for exporting human resources; and

(b) if so, by when it would start to explore largest skilled manpower pool for export which India possesses?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up a Manpower Export Promotion Council (MEPC) to render promotional and advisory services is under examination of Government. Question of setting a time schedule for this purpose will arise only if a decision to set up the proposed council is taken dependent upon other concerned Ministries/Departments of Government agreeing to it.

Relaxation to IOC and other PSUs for Non-implementation of Act No. 25 of 1996

3537. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any relaxation to Indian Oil Corporation Limited and other PSUs for implementation of Act No. 25 of 1996 in the matter of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995;

(b) if so, when and how this relaxation is given;

(c) whether RPFC, Maharashtra and CPFC, New Delhi have recommended the Exemption Application of M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited and others to Ministry of Labour, knowing fully well that Indian Oil Corporation and other PSUs are deducting EPF amount from employees till date and had not yet implemented the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995;

(d) if so, the reasons and justification shown by RPFC and CPFC; and

(e) whether Government have received complaints from employees or associations in view of (a) and (b) and if so, the directives given to employees and associations, particularly by Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Some representations have been received from the employees for implementation of the Employees' Pension Scheme in the Indian Oil Corporation. The representations received in this regard have been referred to the EPF Organisation for comments.